

The Diocese of the West
The Orthodox Church in America

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St. Susanna Orthodox Church

March 2010

www.stsusanna.com



Pastor:

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The publican was saved, the harlot was made chaste, but the pharisee through boasting was condemned. Zacchaeus was a publican, but yet was healed, and Simon the Pharisee was disappointed, but the harlot received the release of full forgiveness from Him Who has power to forgive sins. Obtain His forgiveness yourself, my soul ... Do not let despair make you worse than the Canaanite woman, for you have heard of her faith through which her daughter was healed by the Word of God. Call to Christ like her from the depth of your heart, "Son of David, save me." Have compassion and save me, have mercy on me, O Son of David, Who didst heal with a word the demoniac. And let Thy voice of tender compassion speak to me as to the robber, "Truly I tell you, you will be with Me in Paradise when I rise in My glory."

—Troparia from Canticle 9 of the Great Canon of St. Andrew of Crete

Marching to Pascha

Lent continues in the month of March, but just around the corner is Holy Pascha, the Feast of Feasts, on April 4. This year, both East and West will celebrate the Resurrection on the same day. In the meantime, we will have the Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts on Wednesdays at 6:00 p.m., and celebrate the many special Sundays and services that the Church provides for us. We look forward to the Sunday of the Veneration of the Precious Cross on March 7, and will also recall the teaching of John Climacus in his Christian classic, "The Ladder of Divine Ascent," on John Climacus Sunday, March 14. Then, we will continue our ascetic learning as we read the life of St. Mary of Egypt and chant the Great Canon of St. Andrew of Crete—the greatest compunctionate canon of the Church—on Thursday, March 18. (We will not have Presanctified that Wednesday.)

Especially, on Wednesday the 24th and Thursday the 25th, we will celebrate the great feast of the Annunciation of the Most Holy Theotokos, which follows St. Mary of Egypt Sunday. Then, on March 27 and 28—with Great Vespers and Divine Liturgy for Palm Sunday—we will begin Holy Week.

Let us also not forget that, as we prepare ourselves for the majestic feast of Holy Pascha, the sacrament of holy Confession is as important to our souls as prayer. I am available for confessions after Vespers and before Divine Liturgy, and can also schedule confessions for weekdays.

Palm Sunday and the Beginning of Holy Week

From Palm Sunday, we progress through the most solemn and yet majestic season of the Church year. In this week of tribulation, tears and, finally, joy, we experience the order of nature and time itself, shaken and disoriented as our Lord is betrayed, tried and voluntarily put to death on the Cross. The Church services reflects this, with Matins apart from a vigil being served in the evening, Vespers in the morning and in the afternoon on some days—but all will be set right on Holy Pascha. On Holy Monday, March 29, at 6:00 p.m., we will celebrate Bridegroom Matins, that beautiful, solemn service reminding us that Christ the Bridegroom, suffering for our sakes, will return in glory, unexpectedly arriving to bring us fully into His kingdom.

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*Corner of Jamestown Rd.
& Robinwood Ln.
(2 blocks north of
Racetrack Rd.)

On Holy Wednesday, March 31, at 6:00 p.m., we will celebrate our last Presanctified Liturgy for the liturgical cycle.

At 6:00 p.m. on Holy Thursday, April 1, we remember Christ's all-memorable and voluntary suffering and Crucifixion in the Matins with Passion Gospels. After the Royal Hours at 9:00 a.m. on Holy Friday, we process with Our Lord's burial shroud (the Plaschanitsa) in the Vespers of Holy Friday at 3:00 p.m. Holy Friday liturgically comes to a close after the service of Matins with Lamentations, at 6:00 p.m. On Holy Saturday, we fully experience the disordered state of things as our Lord—the source of our life!—lays in the tomb, with a Vespers (the Vespers and Liturgy of St. Basil the Great) at 9:00 in the morning. This signifies a day of silence and preparation for the greatest miracle of all—when the Lord arises, and the order of the universe will be set aright. At 11:30 p.m., Nocturnes prepares the way for the Paschal Vigil, which links Compline and Matins—followed by the Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom, proclaiming the Resurrection of our Lord, God and Savior Jesus Christ. This is the greatest moment of the Church year; this repeats and resonates with the greatest moment in the history of the human race. This is the moment of our salvation.

St. John Chrysostom, in his Homily 78, on Matthew 25:1–30, echoes the admonition of readiness sounded by Our Lord's parable of the Bridegroom and the virgins, as he states:

“ ‘ Watch therefore, for ye know not the day nor the hour.’ See how continually Christ adds this, showing how awful is our ignorance concerning our own departure hence? Where now are they, who throughout all their life are remiss, but when they

are admonished by us, say, ‘At the time of my death, I shall leave money to the poor.’ Let them listen to these words, and be amended. For indeed at that time many have failed of this, having been snatched away suddenly, and not permitted even enough time to tell their relatives how to dispose of their estates ...

“Let *us* then hearken to these words. As we have opportunity, let us help in our salvation, let us get oil for our lamps, let us labor to add to our talent. For if we be backward, and spend our time in sloth concerning charity and brotherly love in this life, no one will pity us hereafter, though we should wail ten thousand times...

“How many of us desire to see His form? Behold, it is possible, not only to see Him, but also to become like Him; if we are in earnest. Let us not delay then. He does not so readily accept prophets' lips, as those who are meek and forbearing even as He is. ‘For many will say unto me,’ He says, ‘Have we not prophesied in Thy name? And I will say unto them, I know you not.’

“You do not command devils now, but you will be able to command even the fire of hell, if you learn to be meek and charitable as He would have us be... and then, with great confidence, we shall set foot in the Heavens, and enjoy the kingdom; unto which God grant all of us to attain....”

Indeed, brothers and sisters, may God grant all of us, and all of our Orthodox brothers and sisters, the discernment and awareness to keep Christ's commandments, and to be prepared always for His coming!

In Christ,
Fr. Andrew

St. Susanna Cleaning Team Schedule

*Blessed are those who love the beauty
of God's house*

Team 1—March 20th; 9:00 a.m.

MANY YEARS

Birthdays:

Alisa Jacobs	March 14
Florence Craig	March 17
Natalie Teshin	March 17

Namesdays:

Dave Harmer	March 1
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Anniversaries:

Dave and Jeanne Harmer	March 3
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Liturgical Schedule for March, 2010

- Wed., March 3** 6:00 p.m.—**Presanctified Liturgy** followed by a Lenten soup dinner.
- Saturday, March 6** 6:00 p.m.—Great Vespers w/Litya for the **Veneration of the Precious Cross**
- Sunday, March 7** 9:00 a.m.—Divine Liturgy for the **Veneration of the Precious Cross**
Scripture Readings—Hebrews 4:14–5:6 and Mark 8:34–9:1
Note: There will be a Parish Council Meeting following Divine Liturgy.
- Wed., March 10** 6:00 p.m.—**Presanctified Liturgy** followed by a Lenten soup dinner.
- Saturday, March 13** 6:00 p.m.—Great Vespers for **St. John Climacus Sunday**
- Sunday, March 14** 9:00 a.m.—Divine Liturgy for **St. John Climacus Sunday**
Scripture Readings—Hebrews 6:13–20 and Mark 9:17–31
Note: There will be a Lenten potluck following Divine Liturgy.
- Wed., March 17** **No Presanctified Liturgy this evening.**
- Thursday, March 18** 6:00 p.m.—The **Great Canon of St. Andrew of Crete with the Reading of the Life of St. Mary of Egypt**
- Saturday, March 20** 6:00 p.m.—Great Vespers for **St. Mary of Egypt Sunday**
- Sunday, March 21** 9:00 a.m.—Divine Liturgy for **St. Mary of Egypt Sunday**
Scripture Readings—Hebrews 9:11–14 and Mark 10:32–45
- Wed., March 24** 6:00 p.m.—Great Vespers for the **Annunciation of the Most-holy Theotokos**
- Thursday, March 25** 6:00 a.m.—Divine Liturgy for the **Annunciation of the Most-holy Theotokos**
Scripture Readings—Hebrews 2:11–18 and Luke 1:24–38

Holy Week: March to April

- Saturday, March 27** 6:00 p.m.—Great Vespers w/Litya for **Palm Sunday**
- Sunday, March 28** 9:00 a.m.—Divine Liturgy for **Palm Sunday**
Scripture Readings—Philippians 4:4–9 and John 12:1–18
Note: There will be a Lenten potluck following Divine Liturgy.
- Holy Mon. Mar. 29** 6:00 p.m.—**Bridegroom Matins**
- Holy Wed. March 31** 6:00 p.m.—**Presanctified Liturgy** followed by a Lenten soup dinner
- Holy Thur. April 1** 6:00 p.m.—**Matins w/Passion Gospels**
- Holy Friday, April 2** 9:00 a.m.—**Royal Hours**
3:00 p.m.—**Vespers w/ Plaschanitsa procession**
6:00 p.m.—**Matins with Lamentations**

HOLY WEEK CONTINUED ON BACK (pg. 4)

Holy Week: March to April (*continued*)

Holy Sat., April 3 9:00 a.m.—Vespers and Liturgy of St. Basil
11:30 p.m.—Nocturnes

And immediately after Nocturnes, we joyously celebrate:

Pascha Sun., April 4 **Midnight**—THE FEAST OF FEASTS: **HOLY PASCHA!**
Matins, Paschal Hours and the Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom,
followed by the Paschal Feast
Scripture Readings—Acts 1:1-8 and John 1:1-17
1:00 p.m.—**Paschal Vespers**

Bright Week and Following

Bright Wed., April 7 6:00 p.m.—Great Vespers w/Litya for **Bright Wednesday**

Bright Sat., April 10 6:00 p.m.—Great Vespers w/Litya for **St. Thomas Sunday**

Antipascha Sun., April 11 9:00 a.m.—Divine Liturgy for **St. Thomas Sunday**
Scripture Readings—Acts 5:12–20 and John 20:19–31
Note: There will be a Parish Council Meeting—and a potluck—following Divine Liturgy.

Saturday, April 17 6:00 p.m.—Great Vespers for **Holy Myrrhbearers Sunday**

Sunday, May 18 9:00 a.m.—Divine Liturgy for **Holy Myrrhbearers Sunday**
Scripture Readings—Acts 6:1–7 and Mark 15:43–16:8

Prayer List

PLEASE JOIN US IN GIVING THANKS TO GOD:

- For the skill and devotion of those beautifying our temple and gardens.
- For the beauty of the Mother Lode, and for the privilege we have been given to live here.
- That the Holy Mother of Jesus continues to care for the unborn.
- That many of our petitions are being answered.
- For Natasha's recovery.

PLEASE JOIN US IN PRAYING FOR GOD'S HELP:

- “St. John, please intercede for us before God for the membership growth of St. Susanna.”
- That St. Susanna Mission may receive a Church Planting Grant.
- For repose of the souls of our service men and women who have given their lives for the people of foreign lands.
- To safeguard all the troops who remain in heathen lands.
- To help us forgive the heathen fanatics who continue to murder our soldiers and their own citizens and children.
- That many may come to Orthodoxy through our witness and example.
- To bless our monasteries and the men and women who dwell in them.
- For the healing of Matushka Anna.
- For health for Shay.
- For the healing of Bishop Nikolai.
- For health and strength for Ron and Judy.
- For Jack, who is dying, that he would acknowledge Jesus as his Lord and Savior.

To ask us to pray for you, your family or friends, please call Alex Teshin at 209-536-9999.